

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 CG-00 EUR-12

DOT-00 /043 W

----- 014270

R 020908Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4028

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RP, PINS

SUBJECT: HOSTILITIES IN JOLO

REF: PARA 6 STATE 125093 (EA PRESS SUMMARY)

1. GOVERNMENT HAS BACKHANDEDLY CONFIRMED SERIOUS INCIDENT IN JOLO CITY ON MAY 22. ACCORDING PRESS OF JUNE 1, SECDEF ENRILE HAS ORDERED INVESTIGATION OF INCIDENT WHICH BEGAN WHEN NAVY STOPPED LOCAL CRAFT IN "OFF-LIMITS" AREA (PRE-SUMABLY REBELS WERE SUSPECTED OF BEING BANDITS OR SMUGGLERS OR BOTH.) AS DETAINEES BEING OFFLOADED AT DOWNTOWN WHARF HEAVY FIRING FROM NEARBY HOUSES (BUILT ON STILTS OVER WATER) ENABLED 16 CAPTIVES TO ESCAPE. TWO OF LATTER WERE SLAIN AND (ACCORDING GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED PRESS ACCOUNT) ZSOME CIVILAINS WERE WOUNDED AND SOME SHANTIES BURNED DOWN" IN RESULTING FIREFIGHT.

2. STORY MENTIONED ADDITIONAL INCIDENTS OF CONFLICT BETWEEN NAVY AND LOCAL "PUMPBOATS" (OUTRIGGERS WITH SMALL INBOARD ENGINES) INCLUDING ONE ON MAY 17 IN WHICH NAVY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PATROL CRAFT ATTACKED BY FOURTEEN "PUMPBOATS" ARMED WITH

MACHING GUNS AND ALL FOURTEEN ALLEGEDLY SUNK.

3. ACCORDING CARE REP WHO WAS PRESENT IN JOLO CITY AT TIME OF MAY 22 INCIDENT CONSIDERABLE AREA OF VILLAGE-ON-STILTS DESTROYED BY FIRE. CARE REP SAID IT HIS IMPRESSION THAT CASUALTIES HEAVIER THAN IN FEB 1974 ATTACK ON JOLON ALTHOUGH PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION PROBABLY NOT AS GREAT. ACCORDING HIS VERSION, NAVY FIRED FIRST SHOTS IN EFFORT TO HALT DETAINEES WHO HAD ESCAPED AND WERE SWIMMING TOWARD VILLAGE ON STILTS. FIRE WAS THEN RETURNED BY OCCUPANTS OF HOUSES AND HEAVY EXCHANGE DEVELOPED.

4. COMMENT: FACTS OF CASE AND CASUALTIES STILL UNCERTAIN BUT ALL ACCOUNTS AGREE THAT FIGHTING IN SULU AREA HAS BEEN HEAVY IN RECENT WEEKS, WHILE OTHER MUSLIM AREAS REMAIN RELATIVELY QUIESCENT.
PURCELL

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